

**121st MEETING OF THE FOYLE CARLINGFORD AND IRISH
LIGHTS COMMISSION**

Tuesday 30th June 2020 at 9.30am

Via Teleconference

Attendees

Present

Andrew Duncan (Vice Chairman)
Alastair Patterson
Allan Ewart
Heather Mackey
Michael McCormick
Patrick Gibbons
Phil Mahon
Terry McWilliams

In Attendance - Loughs Agency

Sharon McMahon – Designated Officer
Laura McCready (Minutes)

Private Time for Board Members

The Board did not avail of private time before the Board Meeting commenced.

1. Apologies

Fiona Walsh
Ian McCrea

2. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest with any agenda items.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposed Patrick Gibbons
Seconded Phil Mahon

4. Reserved Minutes

The reserved minutes from the previous meeting were agreed by all.

Proposed Patrick Gibbons
Seconded Phil Mahon

5. Matters Arising

All matters arising from the previous minutes were on the agenda for discussion.

6. CEO Progress Report

Prior to the Board Meeting Board Members were provided with a comprehensive overview of current significant issues, strategic updates and governance and accountability updates from the Designated Officer.

COVID-19 Global Pandemic

Designated Officer advised that all administration, technical and professional staff continue to work successfully and securely from their homes. Normal lines of supervision and support have been put in place. A number of guidelines to facilitate safe and secure home working have been issued and Directors have implemented communication plans to ensure connectivity with their teams.

Designated Officer advised that Fishery Protection staff have returned to full operational duties from the 18th May 2020. All Protection staff have completed a Return to Work Induction which included the completion of a health declaration. All standard operating procedures have been revised to provide a safe working environment which complies with COVID-19 government advice.

Designated Officer advised that appropriate PPE has been provided to relevant staff, risk assessments are conducted and documented and a COVID-19 Co-Ordinator has been appointed.

River Faughan “Wet Woods” Project

Designated Officer advised that the Agency, supported by the Woodland Trust and Northern Ireland Water has been delivering native tree planting projects, associated stock proof fencing and improved access on the River Faughan. She added that this

partnership has facilitated the planting of an additional 5,000 native trees along the River Faughan.

Designated Officer reported that the Woodland Trust to date has funded the largest portion of enhancement works during 2020. She added that the Agency is delighted that the Trust has ring-fenced an additional £15,000 for additional river enhancement projects, which will be completed later this year.

Designated Officer advised that BBC journalist Conor Macauley picked up on the story and highlighted it on BBC Newsline at 6pm on 18th June 2020. The report can still be viewed on the BBC iPlayer.

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7. Finance Update

Board Members were provided with a Budget Report up to the end of May 2020 and a capital projects update, prior to the Board Meeting.

8. Risk Register Update

Board Members were provided with the individual Directors' Operational Risk Registers, overall Corporate Risk Register and COVID-19 Risk Register, prior to the Board Meeting for information.

9. Outturn Against Targets

Board Members were provided with copies of the most up to date Outturn Against Targets for their information.

10. Audit and Risk Committee Update

Board Members were provided with the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of the 22nd June 2020 for their information.

Patrick Gibbons, Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee provided Board Members with an overview of the recent meeting. Patrick drew particular attention to the Agency's Internal Audit Report, advising that the Agency received an overall 'Satisfactory' opinion on its governance, risk management and control arrangements. Patrick advised that he was pleased to note that there were only 3 priority 2 recommendations from the 2019/20 audit, compared to 27 in the previous audit.

Phil Mahon congratulated the Agency on the very positive Internal Audit Report. Phil noted the update regarding the replacement vessel options paper and raised concern regarding the lack of contact with a scientist from DAERA, which seems to be delaying the process.

Designated Officer advised that following a meeting with both Sponsor Departments in February 2020 it was agreed that the Agency would progress the options paper. She added that as part of this process the Director of Aquaculture and Shellfisheries was to liaise with a scientist from DAERA to review options regarding availability and suitability of department vessels. She added that this meeting has not yet taken place, however the Agency continues to meet its statutory requirements in relation to aquaculture matters and will now liaise with an alternative contact in DAERA in a bid to progress the issue.

11. External Funding Update

The Board was provided with an update on the SeaMonitor, CatchmentCARE and SWELL projects prior to the meeting for information.

12. Press Releases

Board Members were provided with a copy of press releases published since the previous Board Meeting.

13. AOB

Fish Counters

Michael McCormick asked if it is possible for Board Members to have access to the camera footage that monitors the Agency's fish

counters. Designated Officer advised that she will contact the IT Department in relation to this request.

14. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Friday 4th September 2020 at 9.30am via videoconference.

Item No	Action	Responsible	Expected Delivery Date
13	Provide Board Members with access to camera footage from fish counter stations if possible.	Designated Officer	ASAP